

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

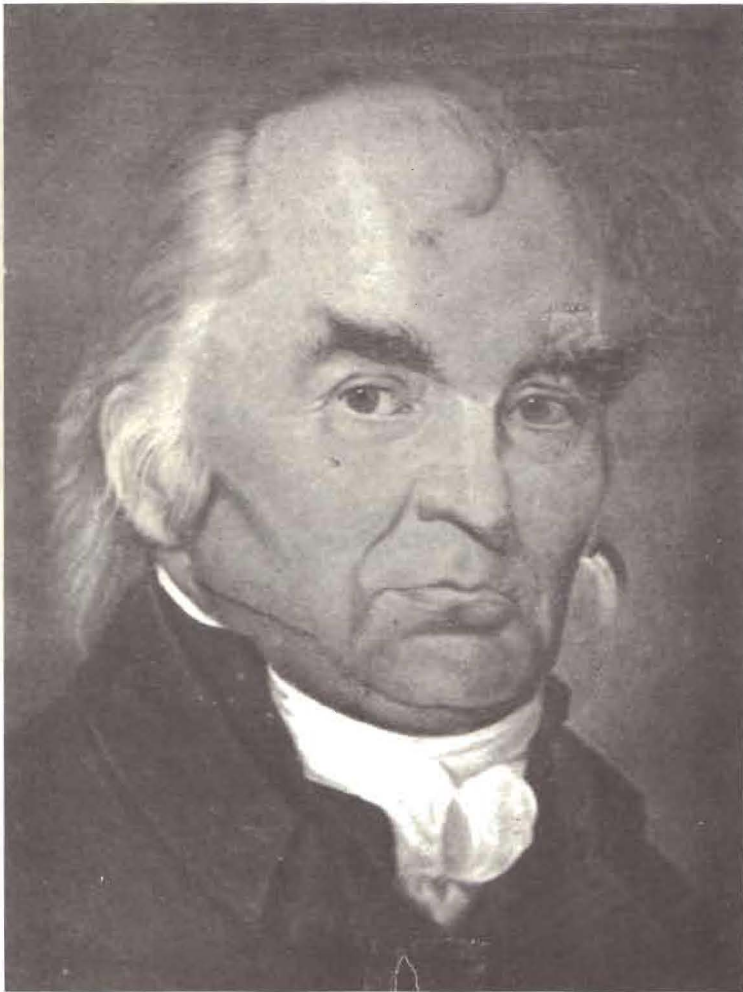
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EARLY RUTLAND

The Gove Family



DORCAS CHAFFEE

Nathaniel Gove (1739-1813)

EARLY RUTLAND

The Gove Family

by Dawn D. Hance

With the imminent celebrations of the 200th birthday of the State of Vermont in 1991 and the subsequent centennial of Rutland in 1992, Vermonters find themselves inevitably searching for or recalling their family roots. Many descendants of early Rutland families are scattered throughout the country but in this last decade of the 20th century there are still representatives of many of the early settlers who came to Vermont, mainly from Connecticut and Massachusetts. For instance, such are Marsha Fletcher Wilson and Keen Chaffee of Rutland who can trace their backgrounds to the early 18th century and to such well-known ancestral family names as Chaffee, Thrall and Gove. It is ironic that Marsha Wilson as a real estate broker daily enters the office of the Frank Punderson Agency, the site of the old homestead where the Gove family resided for over half a century. Just who was Nathaniel Gove?

Nathaniel was born on 21 April 1739 at Coventry, Connecticut. At the age of twenty he married Esther Tyler on 1 October 1759 at Preston, Connecticut.

When the Revolutionary War broke out in 1775 Nathaniel was thirty-six years old. Esther was expecting their seventh child. Like many of his peers, Nathaniel enlisted in the patriotic cause and served a few days in July that year. In 1776 he fought at the Battle of Long Island as a first lieutenant. When the Americans were routed at the battle, Nathaniel was taken prisoner on 27 August 1776. For twenty-three months he languished in a prison ship on the Hudson River. His confinement left him a diseased and broken man. Thereafter his limbs were crippled and he spoke with difficulty. He could move his feet only a few inches and walked with two canes.

Sometime after his release the family settled in Bennington, Vermont. In the autumn of 1781 Thomas Chittenden authorized Nathaniel to transport provisions for the army.

When Rutland became the county seat in 1784, Nathaniel, while still residing at Bennington, made his first land purchase in this town that November. The change of the county seat to the sparsely settled village of Rutland brought about a transition and influx of court personnel, craftsmen, mechanics and shopkeepers. Gove's newly purchased property was located south of the present Lindholm Sport Center on the east side of South Main Street.

Nathaniel was the first innkeeper of the village. His first tavern, which he must have rented, was located in the building frequently referred to as the Corner House at the northwest corner of Main and West Streets. Deeds indicate that his brother John Gove bought the tavern stand from John Train in 1790. Early resident William McConnell recalled the following about the Corner House:

Nathaniel Gove built same as now building on Lord corner [Corner House] & lived in it with his family November 1786 [time of the anti-court riot] — his brother John bachelor lived with him — Once before Court House was built N. Gove was living in Hay-scales house [The editor believes this was his house south of the present Lindholm Sport Center.] & his corner house roofed partly boarded up floor consisted of loose boards & boards fixed up for seats & Supreme Court sat there in warm weather — believe Moses Robinson of Bennington presided.

Nathaniel's wife Esther died on 16 September 1787 a few months short of her forty-seventh birthday. While preparing to leave for Connecticut to settle her father's estate

she suffered a rupture and died soon after. No doubt her funeral was held at the new East Parish Meeting House and her coffin buried a few yards away in the newly opened burial ground (North Main Street Cemetery).

In 1791 Nathaniel purchased the one-story house formerly occupied by Jeremiah Dewey. However, he resided there only a year before selling it to Jane Williams, wife of Reverend Samuel Williams. This building still stands at 26 South Main Street (Charles Tuttle Co., Inc.).

At some point Nathaniel built a tavern on the site of his first home (south of Lindholm Sport Center). In 1792 he offered land to the county for a new courthouse. He stipulated that the building must face north towards his tavern and a plank walk maintained between the two structures. This tavern, which he sometimes rented out to other keepers, was known as the Government House. Sometime prior to 1815 the tavern was moved from the premises. That year his son Jesse erected a store to rent on the site.

In 1797 the Gove family constructed a new residence just north of the tavern. The building is gone now but this site presently houses the Frank Punderson Agency at 8 South Main Street. Nathaniel resided there with his son Jesse until his death in 1813. Jesse made it his home until he died in 1842.

Nathaniel's brother John was often in financial difficulty. In 1805 John petitioned the legislature for relief. That same year Probate Judge James Herrington took court action against guardians John and Nathaniel to prevent them from disposing of the property which had been inherited by the children of Esther (Tyler) Gove, Nathaniel's wife. As a result, Nathaniel lost his property to his offspring. They, in turn, deeded most of the land to Jesse.

During the winter and spring of 1813, Rutland lost many of its citizens to an epidemic that raged through the northeast. Nathaniel died later that year on 9 September. He, too, was interred in North Main Street Cemetery, but in 1890 the remains of him and his wife were taken to Evergreen Cemetery. His obituary, published in the 15 September 1813 *Rutland Herald*, reads as follows:

Died

In this village, on the 9th inst. one of the last of the revolutionary and real patriots, Captain NATHANIEL GOVE, aged 75 years. On the 11th current, the funeral sermon was publicly announced by the Rev. Samuel Williams, L. L. D. from Job VII. 16: *I loath it; I would not live alway: let me alone, for my days are vanity.*

After the usual attendant solemnities at the place of worship, the remains were borne to the grave and there interred by the brethren of the Centre Lodge [Masons], holden in this place, of which lodge the deceased was an aged and honourable member. The concourse of the ancient fraternity, and of other citizens, exhibited, upon the occasion, all the solemnity of deep distress, and all the hope which dawns through the darkness of the tomb. They evinced their respect for the virtues of the deceased. They were instructed, consoled, and edified by the uncommonly luminous and instructive solemnities from the aged and venerable clergyman that officiated. [Reverend Williams was seventy years old.] It is to be hoped the whole sermon may appear. We are now permitted to give the following extract, portraying the character of the deceased, in the succeeding words:

'It was thus with the person whose remains are now to be laid in the dust: a man whose life has been marked with a variety of events, virtues and sufferings. Born and educated in the state of Connecticut, he

was trained up in those religious principles and habits, which are highly ornamental, honourable and useful to an individual and to society. It was there that he first engaged in business, and from sober and virtuous habits, soon found himself at the head of a beloved family, with the prospect of increasing property and prosperity. At that time his country became involved in an unjust, unnatural, and cruel war, and there was no way to save the country or to obtain peace, but by a firm, determinate, and unabating opposition to the enemy. The people were then virtuous, religious, and united; and patriotism was considered as a most important duty and the most honourable of all social characters.

'Such was the patriotic virtue of Mr. Gove, that he relinquished the enjoyments of domestic life, and the profits of a lucrative profession to engage in the *dangerous* defence of his country, *and with seven men from his own house, entered into the service of the United States*. The campaign of 1776, proved distressing and unfortunate; he was taken prisoner at the battle of Long-Island, and, for 23 months, suffered the distressing calamities of imprisonment, hunger, nakedness, and putrid provisions. His firm and rigorous constitution sunk under a complication of such miseries; and at the end of his confinement, he returned to his family, with a broken constitution, a diseased body, and the certain, but lingering needs and pains of disease and death. Unable to take an active part in society nothing now remained for him but to make the best provision, and to take the best care of his family that he could; and such was his application, fidelity, and tenderness in these respects, that *his children, the best judges, with one accord, rise up and call him blessed*.

'It was during this period of his misfortune and sufferings, that I first became acquainted with him; and I have often admired the patience, firmness, and quietness with which he conducted under such distressing dispensations of divine Providence. The benefits and comforts of attending the divine ordinances he could not enjoy for several years; but was always found among those who were ready to vote and contribute for their support. In conversation, he always avowed to me his belief of those religious principles in which he was educated and for several months before his death, repeatedly expressed his attachment in them, and that he derived much consolation from them.

Such was the man whose remains are now to be committed to the grave; and, in his character and conduct, patriotic and domestic virtue will find much to admire and applaud.'

Nathaniel and Esther were blessed with eight children. Only the two youngest of the Gove children, Polly and Jesse, remained in Rutland. Polly married Cephas Smith, Jr., a Rutland attorney. They resided on the green, the present site of 105 Center Street (Hull Maynard Agency). Cephas died in 1815 and afterwards his widow moved to New York state.

Jesse, the youngest child, was born 20 February 1783 at Bennington. He moved to Rutland with his parents when he was a very small boy. He attended the common schools and prepared for college at Samuel Walker's school for young men. After graduating from Middlebury College in 1805 he studied law with his brother-in-law Cephas Smith, Jr. He was admitted to the bar in 1808. The next year he was named Clerk of the United States District and Circuit Courts, a position he held until his death. He was instrumental in organizing the Episcopal Church in Rutland. In the military field he rose to the rank of colonel in the militia.

During the latter part of 1806 Sophia Ingersoll of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, came to Rutland to visit her half-sister Sarah Hooker and her husband Dr. Thomas Hooker. (Sophia was born in Pittsfield 1 July 1788 to Jared and Huldah [Kilburn] Brown

Ingersoll.) During her stay, which lasted about six months, she and Jesse kindled a relationship that was to last thirty-six years, ending with his death from pneumonia typhoides on 30 April 1842 at the age of fifty-nine. The numerous love letters that they exchanged during their two-year courtship have survived over one hundred and eighty years. His letters, filled with flowery words and poetry, reveal that he was a most ardent and passionate lover. He often referred to himself as the "corporal" (a rank he held in the militia) and closed with "Your lover and friend." About a year into the relationship he addressed her as "my wife." Her letters were more subdued; she always signed them "Louisa," a fictitious name she chose.

Sophia's stay ended in June 1807 when she returned to Pittsfield. Soon after her arrival she wrote that her parents approved of the match and had granted Jesse permission to see their daughter. Her absence filled Jesse with loneliness but her profile and a lock of her hair comforted him. From this time until their marriage in January 1809 they saw each other only twice more when he journeyed to Pittsfield.

On his first visit in the summer of 1807 he planned to attend commencement at Williams College at Williamstown and then stop at the Ingersolls. He wrote on 22 August 1807 just prior to his journey:

I leave town flushed with the very comforting hope of soon folding in my arms my dearest — my much loved Sophia — And may that power which keeps & preserves us all, keep and preserve you, my dear girl, the same lovely girl that has warmed enkindled and engaged my whole affections.

On his return home he stopped at Governor Isaac Tichenor's, a family friend who on occasion visited the Goves in Rutland. Upon his arrival home he went to his office to reflect upon the days he and Sophia had passed together. There, on 13 September 1807, he wrote:

And O, my dear "wife" (if I may so say) wast thy gentle spirit here to receive me? Didst thou, my love, come, and with all the glowing ardour of thy affection, fling about me thy arms most tenderly? And didst thou welcome me to thy warm bosom, and to thy fond heart? O! my love, thoust was with me then — for as I opened the door, and threw up the sash, me tho't thou saidst to me most kindly "welcome, my dear Jes, to your home & to your Sophia's heart." O 'twas a rich treat, and rendered more exquisite by the fond recollection of our loves at P. [Pittsfield]. And when, oh when, my dear girl shall we realize the dream which we can now but scarcely dream — oh, let fortune favor once, we ask no more. — Thus, my dear Sophia, I have led you along by the "mind's eye" thro' the whole distance of the long & tedious road I have just left, and bro't you along with me to my home. Would it had been the reality thou shouldst have been equally welcome with myself — thou shouldst always be very near my heart, and I would nourish & cherish thee, my love, in my arms — and I would protect and defend thee, and save thee from all harm.

In 1808 Jesse was cramming for his bar exam. Sophia encouraged him to "Study, Jes, & get admitted as soon as you can, that we may be married the sooner." On 2 April 1808 he related the results of his labors:

From tuesday morning last until yesterday afternoon, my friend Smith and my self were under the scrutinizing examination of a committee from the Gentlemen of the Barr, for the purpose of ascertaining what we knew about our intended profession, or perhaps rather what we did not know; & last evening we were again brought before the Court & the Gentlemen of the Barr for another examination — after which we were desired to retire, & in a few minutes were notified of the unanimous voice of the bar in our favour.

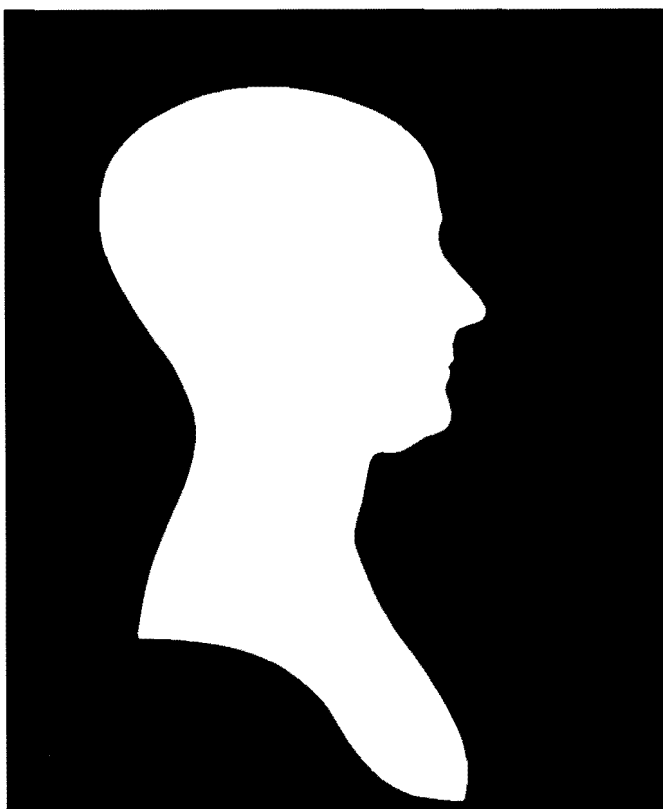


Profile of Jesse Gove as a young man

In the spring of 1808 Jesse visited Sophia again, the last time he was to see her before their marriage. He came home in terrible weather. A freshet that June caused flooding. Otter Creek at the falls in Center Rutland had made a new channel east of the bridge so it was impossible to pass. The bridge was standing in shallow water and the mills were “insulated” (situated on an island or isolated from the water).

Reverend or Doctor Samuel Williams, scientist, historian and early minister of the East Parish in Rutland, was well-known for his accomplishments throughout the state. On 17 July 1808 Jesse concurred with Dr. Williams’ views on marriage:

As it respects the felicities of matrimony, I do think with Dr. Williams. He seems to be more of a man & philosopher upon that subject than most other people are. ‘A person,’ he observes, ‘may be a schollar, a philosopher, & eminent in most of the professions in the world, while single—this is a truth, that is not to be doubted, because we see it every day—but that in a single life he can never be a man, is equally certain. The married state calls into action some of the best & noblest affections of which the human heart is capable—and without it, ’tis impossible to know what they are. As



Profile marked M. Gove (Mrs. Gove?) aged 19. Possibly the profile of Sophia that Jesse cherished in his courting days. Other possibility is that profile is of his sister Mary/Polly (Gove) Smith (1775–1831).

man's humanity is nothing, his fellow feeling is nothing and all his affections are weak & childish in a single state to what they are when he has got some agreeable partner to share with him all his enjoyments & all his cares, & an offspring to poke[?] of their united kindnesses.'

Finally, on 4 January 1809 Jesse was married to his beloved Sophia at Pittsfield. It was decided that Jesse would return to Rutland soon after the wedding and that Sophia would arrive in the summer to set up housekeeping.

It did not take long for Sophia to suspect that she was expecting a baby. On 17 February 1809, about six weeks after the wedding, he answered her letter as follows:

I cannot but regret, (tho' perhaps it would be almost impiety) that you should have discovered the 'symptoms' you mentioned in your last. If what you seem to apprehend should prove true, I shall endeavor, if you prefer it, to go after you in May, instead of June or July. I trust, however, it will not end in a 'dropsy' [possibly miscarriage]. I am very glad my Love, you in-



DORCAS CHAFFEE

*Huldah (Kilburn) Brown Ingersoll
(1752–1834), Sophia's mother*



DORCAS CHAFFEE

*Jared Ingersoll (1745–1835)
Sophia's father*

tend to give me information of the 'malady' as it increases, if it should prove as you suspect.

Her suspicions proved correct and on 12 March 1809 he wrote:

You tell me, my Love – no! you did not! Did I then dream it, that perhaps I might be a father? O, my dear girl, what pleasure would it afford, could I thus be assured, and at the same time know, that her whom I hold most dear, my dear wife, were in the perfect enjoyment of her health.

Jesse brought his bride to Rutland in May. Their daughter, Elizabeth Huldah, the only child they would ever have, was born 5 October 1809, almost nine months to the day after their marriage.

During the War of 1812, Jesse was employed at Burlington for a short time. He wrote on 26 July 1812:

This morning came in, the third or fourth sloop-load of goods from Canada, besides a considerable quantity in the Steam Boat – and from appearances I may not be able to leave here until the latter part of this week – . . . There have been already bro't in about fifty thousand dollars worth of goods, belonging to Americans, and give up to the custom house officer in this State; and many more goods are constantly expected. Of course I shall be employed until the importations cease. The Government of Canada, however, have put a stop to the exportation of coarse woollens from the province, because they suppose the Americans want them for soldiers cloathes – that government has also stoped many other articles; which has occasioned a detention (not confiscation) of nine tenths of the property of some individuals belong-

ing to the U.S. . . . but of the officers and soldiers here, I can perceive hardly a distinction—They are nasty, thievish, unmannerly, fellows—and the officers make no better appearance than so many craves. For my part, I despise the skunks whenever I see them—they are not fit to waste paper about.

Both Jesse and Sophia were doting parents. Their daughter “Bet” (Elizabeth Huldah) attended school in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, for a few months in 1827. On 1 July 1827 her father wrote:

It is so long since I have written a love letter to Pittsfield, that I might appear awkward in the attempt now. But, however, I might perform, on an effort; yet, I do not perceive a necessity of renewing to you many assurances of the good will that your mother and myself both feel to and for you, in every condition of life. Be you good—be you virtuous—and—be you assured, that God almighty will make you happy! . . . I have seen Dr. Porter in relation to your side. He cannot give particular advice, without seeing you; tho’ he suggest, that perhaps bleeding might be useful, and blistering the part affected afterwards. A blister, however, he thinks can do no harm; and should you do that, I recommend you to dress the blister with a salve made of equal quantities bees-wax & fresh lard, spread on a cloth. I mention this, lest you might not remember it, and as being less offensive, & much more easy than cabbage leaves, which are often used, as dressings.

In February 1829 Elizabeth was in Windsor. Her parents cautioned her about the perils of a single girl traveling home alone:

. . . . then we would both of us advise you, when you do return, to take passage in the stage, and not in a private conveyance with any single gentleman; though the objection to a private conveyance would be obviated, if it were taken with some married gentleman. We trust, your own good sense and discretion will suggest the reasons of this our advice, and which we wish you to adopt, in case you do not return with Mr. T.—

On 14 July 1829 Elizabeth married Reuben Rose Thrall. She died from dysentery on 17 September 1849 a few weeks short of her fortieth birthday. She was survived by nine children, the eldest of whom, Charlotte, married Frederick Chaffee.

Elizabeth’s mother Sophia, by then a widow, resided with her son-in-law Reuben and helped rear the children. Sophia died 21 July 1872 aged eighty-four years. Reuben Thrall, a distinguished lawyer and businessman, lived until 10 May 1890.



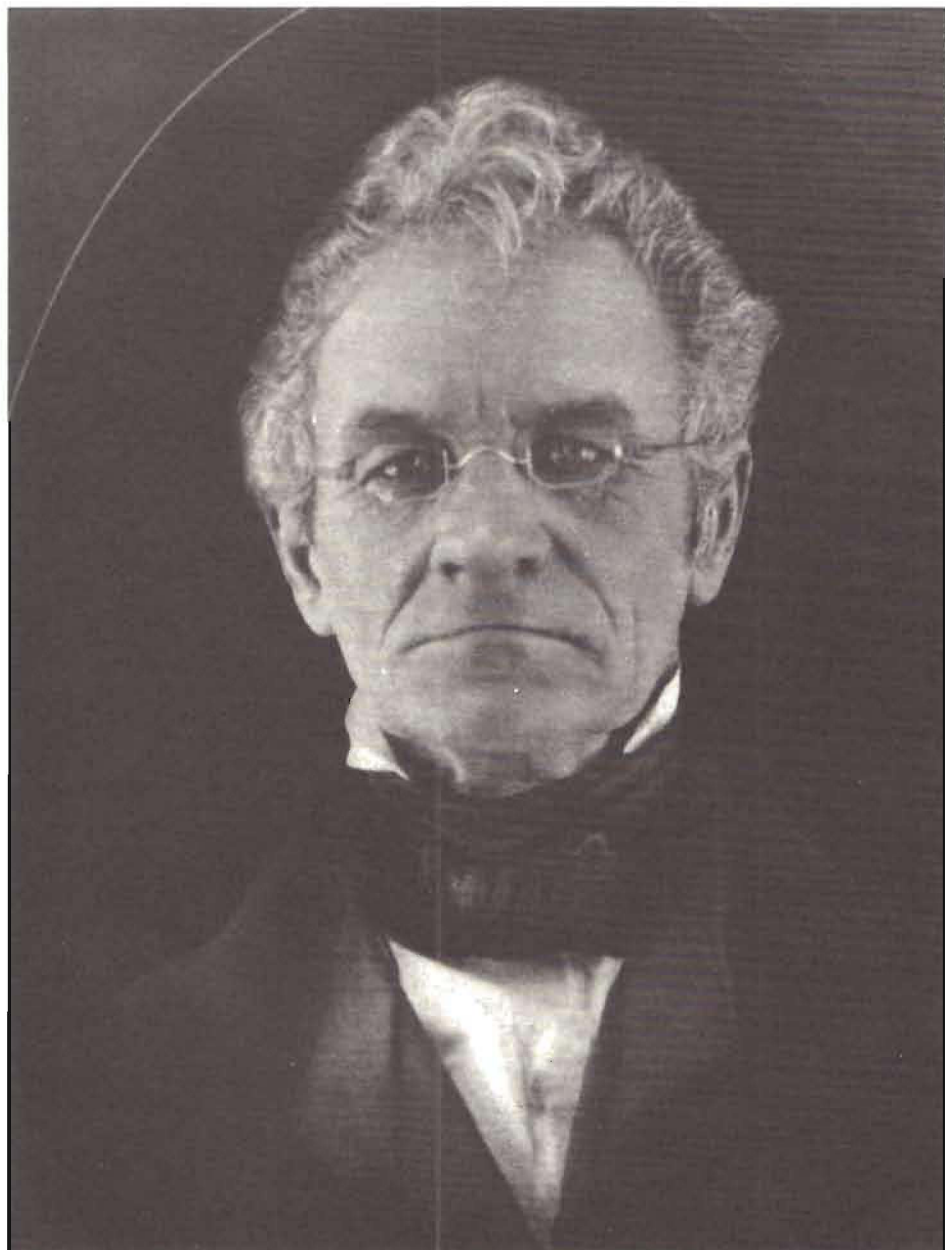
Jesse Gove (1783–1842). Paintings of Jesse, Sophia and Elizabeth Huldah probably by Benjamin Franklin Mason. Frames purchased in 1838 probably date the time of the painting.



Sophia (Ingersoll) Gove (1788-1872)



Elizabeth Huldah (Gove) Thrall (1809-1849)



Reuben Rose Thrall (1795–1890)

ALMOST A CENTURY OF LIFE.

Reuben R. Thrall, Esq.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, May 10, after almost a century of quiet and uneventful life, our venerable townsman Reuben R. Thrall, Esq., passed away at the age of 94 years, 5 months and 5 days.

He was born in the west parish of Rutland, December 5, 1795, and spent his entire life in this community. He received his education in the common-school of that period and a short time spent in study at the Rutland county grammar school, then in charge of Eleazer Barrows as principal. But his education was mainly obtained by himself from reading and study without a teacher. He began reading law in 1816 and completed his studies in the office of William Douglass Smith, a prominent lawyer of his day, and was admitted to the bar at the June term of the Rutland county court in 1819, of which Hon. Pliny Smith was chief judge, and settled in the practice of law with Mr. Smith. He had continued in practice until within a few years. He was reported by Judge Poland at the meeting of the American Bar Association at Saratoga a few years ago as the oldest lawyer in practice in the United States and possibly in the world. He had served several terms as a justice of the peace and was state's attorney in 1886. He was appointed postmaster of Rutland by President James Monroe, March 28, 1822, and served during the administration of John Quincy Adams, until the appointment of Royal H. Waller by President Jackson, July 19, 1829.

Mr. Thrall enlisted in the war of 1812 in Capt. Micah Brown's company, but while on the way to Plattsburgh, on reaching Burlington, he was taken ill and upon his

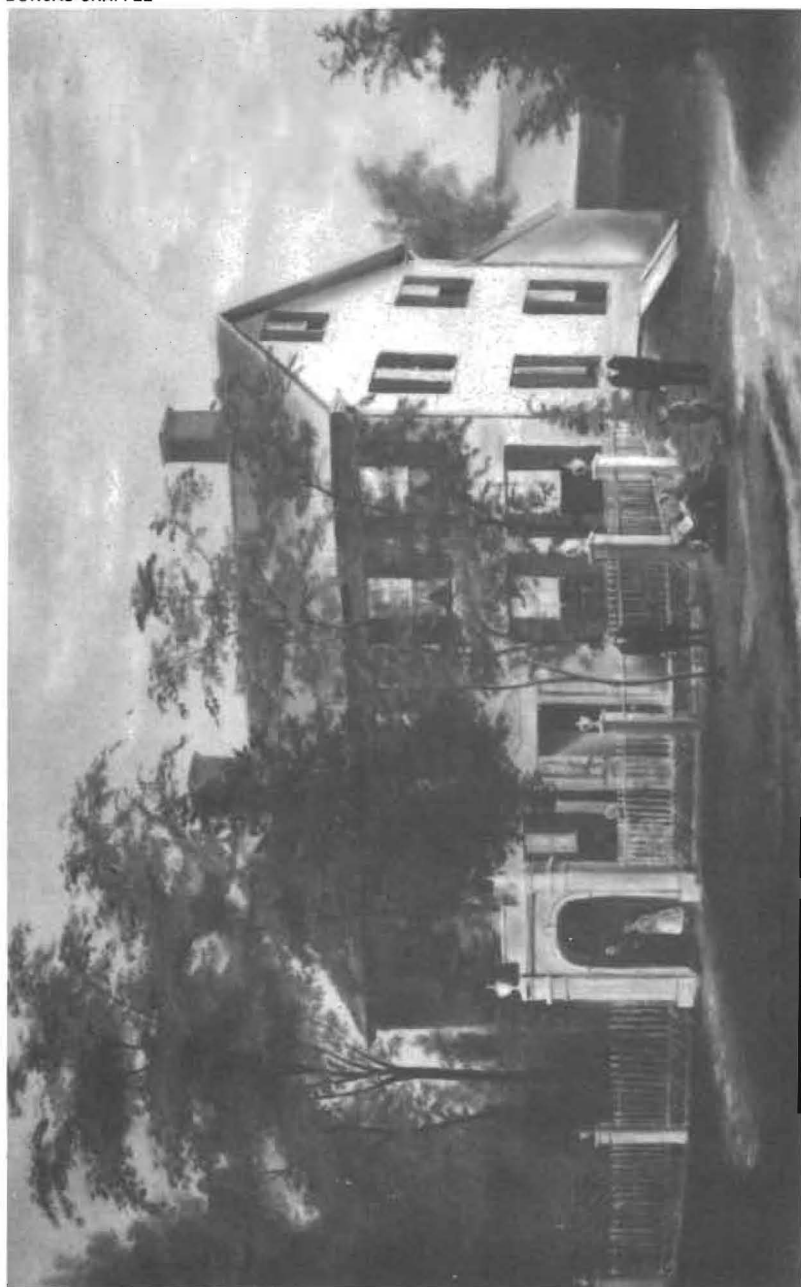
recovery the defenses of Vermont had been withdrawn.

He was an early and enthusiastic abolitionist, the co-adjutor of Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison and John Brown. He was the station master of the underground railroad that assisted the fugitive slave in his flight from bondage to freedom, and helped hundreds on their way to Canada. The slave began to feel the air of freedom when he had reached Hon. Daniel Roberts at Manchester, now of Burlington, who sent him on to Hon. David E. Nicholson, who had charge of the Wallingford station, who piloted him to Mr. Thrall at Rutland, from whence he was sent to Dr. Josiah W. Hale at Brandon, who saw him safely to Hon. E. D. Barber at Middlebury and from from thence to Lawrence Bigelow at Burlington, who cared for him until he was safely with Hon. Lawrence Brainard at St. Albans, who saw him into Canada. Mr. Thrall was frequently the candidate of the Old Liberty party for various offices. At the organization of the Republican party, he with his political associates, cast their fortunes with that party. These men risked their personal freedom and fortunes in assisting the fugitive slave in face of the national law on that subject.

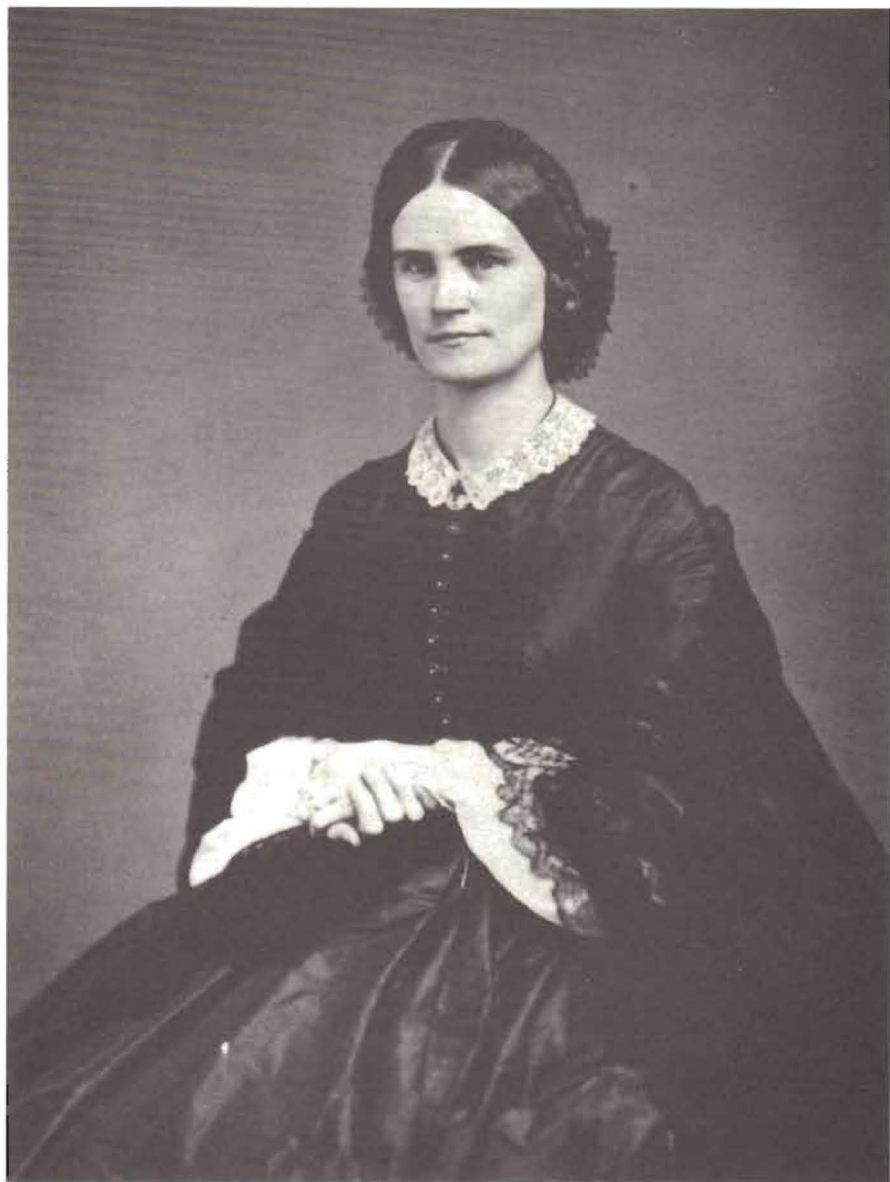
Mr. Thrall married Elizabeth H., the daughter of Hon. Jesse Gove, July 14, 1829. She died in 1849. Their children now living are Mrs. Frederick Chaffee, at whose home he died, and where he has had the loving and dutiful attention of his daughter for the past 17 years, Col. William B. Thrall, Mrs. McNeil of California (an adopted daughter), George Thrall of Detroit, Michigan, and Mrs. Rev. Edward H. Randall of Poultney.

The funeral will be attended from Trinity Episcopal church, of which he had been a communicant for 40 years.

Throughout the ages historians have often repeated the adage that we are what we are because of our past. The history of the Gove family is but one example of the sturdy, courageous 18th century migrants who chose to build a life and a town in the wilderness that was Rutland. As Rutland's centennial year approaches in 1992 it is timely to remember the common folk and honor especially those ancestors who were the lawyers, the educators, the soldiers whose lives and livelihoods laid the foundation for the Rutland we know today. Not least is the role several Rutlanders took upon themselves as abolitionists in the underground railroad who assisted hundreds of fugitive slaves in their flight to freedom. They indeed earned the title of *Honorable* as reported in Reuben Thrall's obituary.



Reuben Thrall house which formerly stood at the northeast corner of North Main Street and Norton Place. Pictured (l. to r.): Jennie (Thrall) Randall with Kate Chaffee, Sophia Gove (behind fence), Reuben Thrall in tall hat, Charlotte (Thrall) Chaffee with baby carriage and probably William Thrall and son. Painting made from an 1858 photograph.



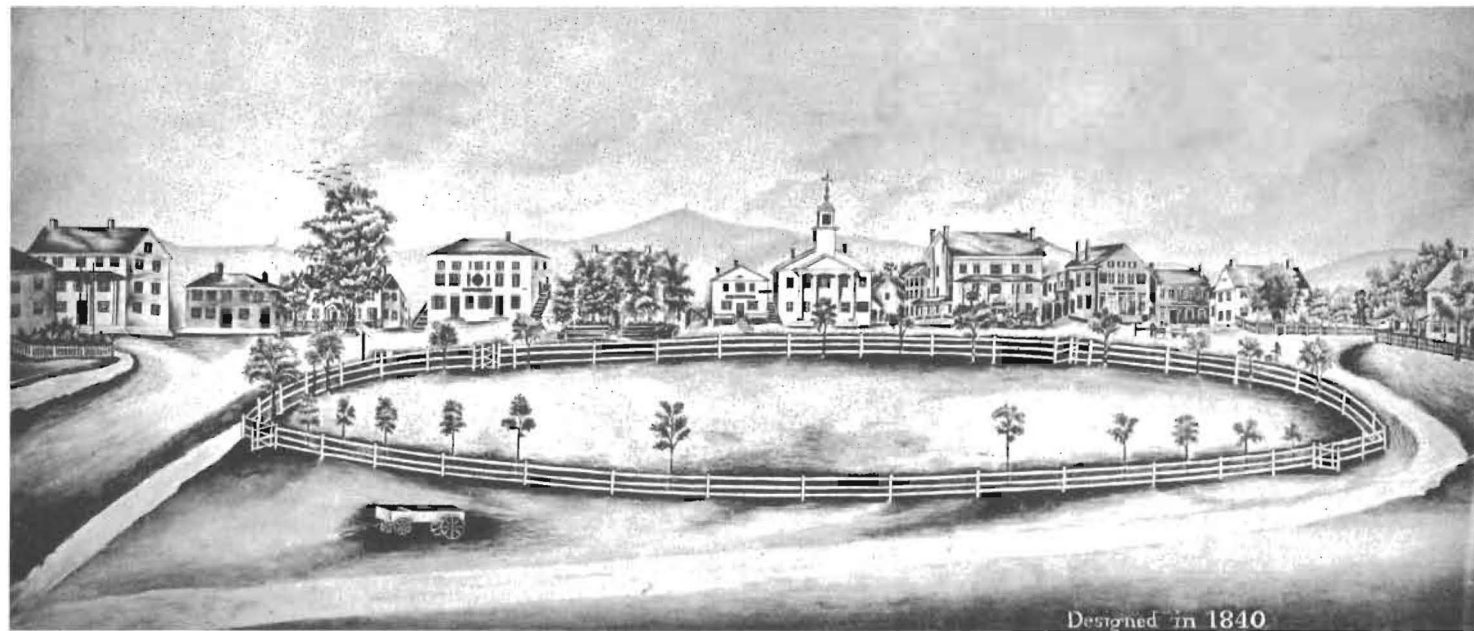
Charlotte (Thrall) Chaffee (1832-1894)



*Frederick Chaffee (1823-1891)
husband of Charlotte (Thrall) Chaffee*



This house, constructed for the Frederick Chaffee family in 1866, formerly stood on the east side of South Main Street north of the railroad tracks where Rutland House is presently situated.



Anne Hall's drawing of Rutland village made prior to 1845. Left of Courthouse is the store Jesse Gove erected in 1815 on the site of the Gove Tavern. Next building (left—behind the trees) is the Gove residence built in 1797.

SOPHIA'S RECIPES AND HOME REMEDIES

Wedding Cake

2½ lbs. of flour	2 gills brandy
2½ lbs. of sugar	25 eggs
2½ lbs. of butter	1 oz. nutmeg
6 lbs. currants	½ oz. cloves
1½ lbs. raisins	1 oz. cinnamon
1½ lbs. citron	

For Curing Pork Hams or Dried Beef

To 4 gallons water add 6 lbs. common salt 1½ lb. sugar
4 oz. Nitre 3 oz. saleratus Boil skim and cool and cover
the meat

Cure for Cough

2 quarts of water
2 ounces of Hoarhound
2 lemons sliced
1 ounce liquorice
1 pound raisins

Boil to a pint, strain it and add two pounds of loaf sugar. Take
two teaspoon fulls twice a day

Cranberry Wine

Take refuse or frost bitten berries, put them in bags and express the juice, after once pressing wash the pulp and press again. the liquor will then contain about one tenth part of water. Add three pounds of sugar to gallon of juice and let it ferment in the ordinary way. —

Fried Oysters

Make a batter of flour, milk & eggs. season it a very little, dip the oysters into it & fry them a fine yellow brown. a little nutmeg should be put into the seasoning & a few crumbs of bread into the flour

To Preserve Apples

Take common flour barrels—cover the bottom to the depth of six inches with finely pulverized plaster thoroughly dried and then place a stratum of apples, not so close as to touch each other and cover them with another layer of plaster, carefully filling all the interstices and making the whole close and compact by the pressure of the hand, in this way fill the barrels and head them up, they will keep sound for a twelve month or longer if desired

To Color Hare [Hair]

2 oz. of slacked lime

1 oz. of letherage

1 oz. of whiting

make a paste with soft water, as thick as cream cover with cabbage leaves

Water Proofs Boots & Shoes

The composition is: Tallow half a pound; hog's lard four ounces; turpentine, new beeswax & olive oil, each two ounces. Melt the materials together by a gentle heat, and rub with the mixture the boots or shoes upper and under leather, the night before they are worn. The better way is, to give them two or three coatings of the composition at intervals, before they are worn at all, we have been days in snow water in boots thus prepared, without the least inconvenience to the feet.

Brown Bread

Rub into one quart of flour 1 teaspoonful of crem of tarter, dissolve 2 teaspoons full of saleratus [pearlash and saleratus were used as baking soda], in water & together with half a coffe cup of molasses & a teaspoon of salt, add sufficient sour milk to mix it very soft.



Sophia Gove with Newman Chaffee, circa 1870

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Rutland Historical Society wishes to express its appreciation to Dorcas Chaffee of Lyme, New Hampshire, who so graciously loaned to the society the many letters and family papers quoted in this article.

AUTHOR DAWN D. HANCE, a member of the Rutland Historical Society Publications Committee, the editor of *Early Families of Rutland* and the author of the, as yet, unpublished history of Rutland 1761-1861. Mrs. Hance was the recent recipient of the honors of the Society for her outstanding work in genealogy and local history.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Please send any address change on Postal Service Form 3576 (a postcard freely available at your local post office).

Annual Meeting is held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of October.

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